

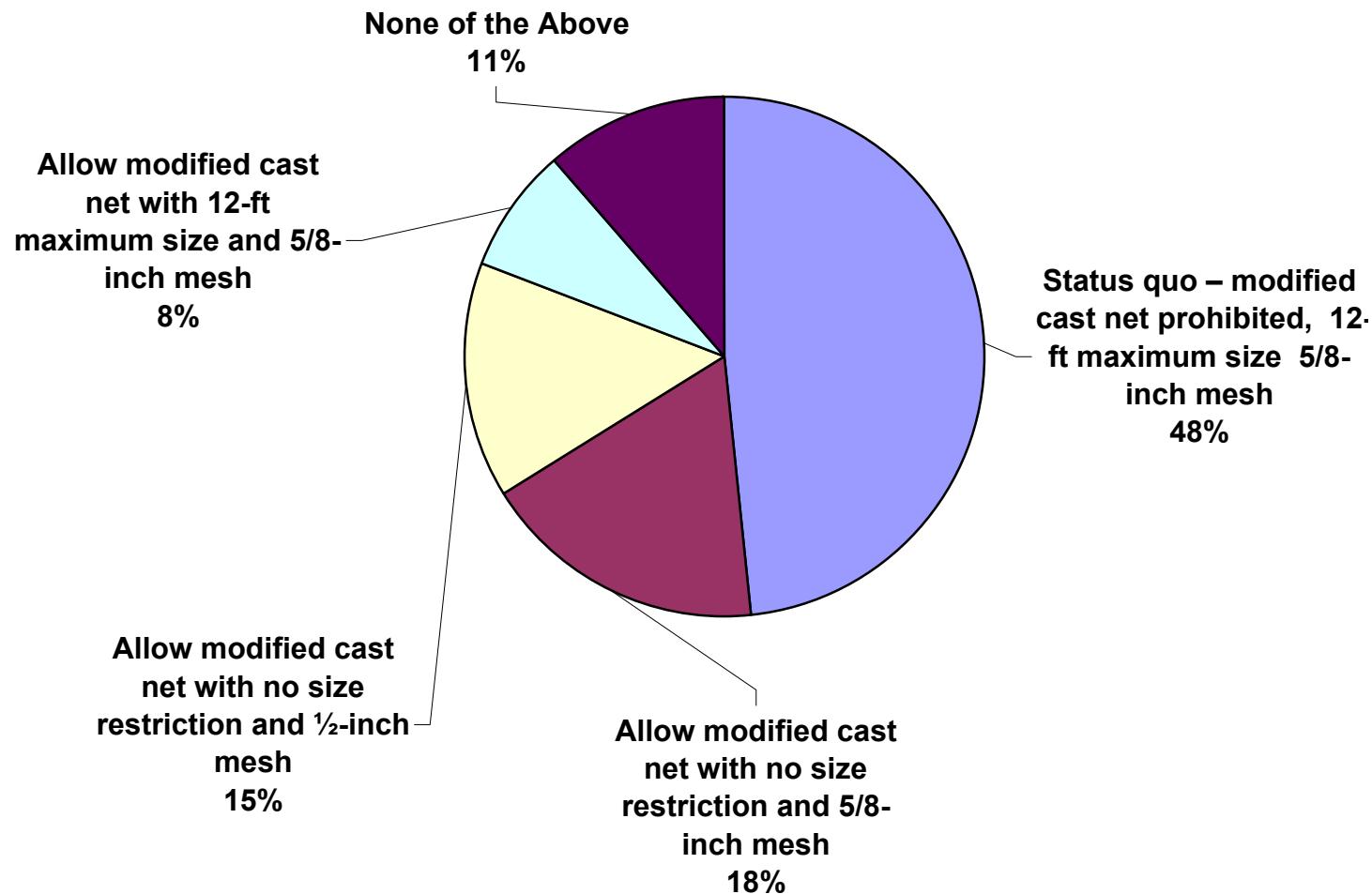
Georgia Shrimp Fishery Management Public Meeting Survey

Pooler and Brunswick - September 2005

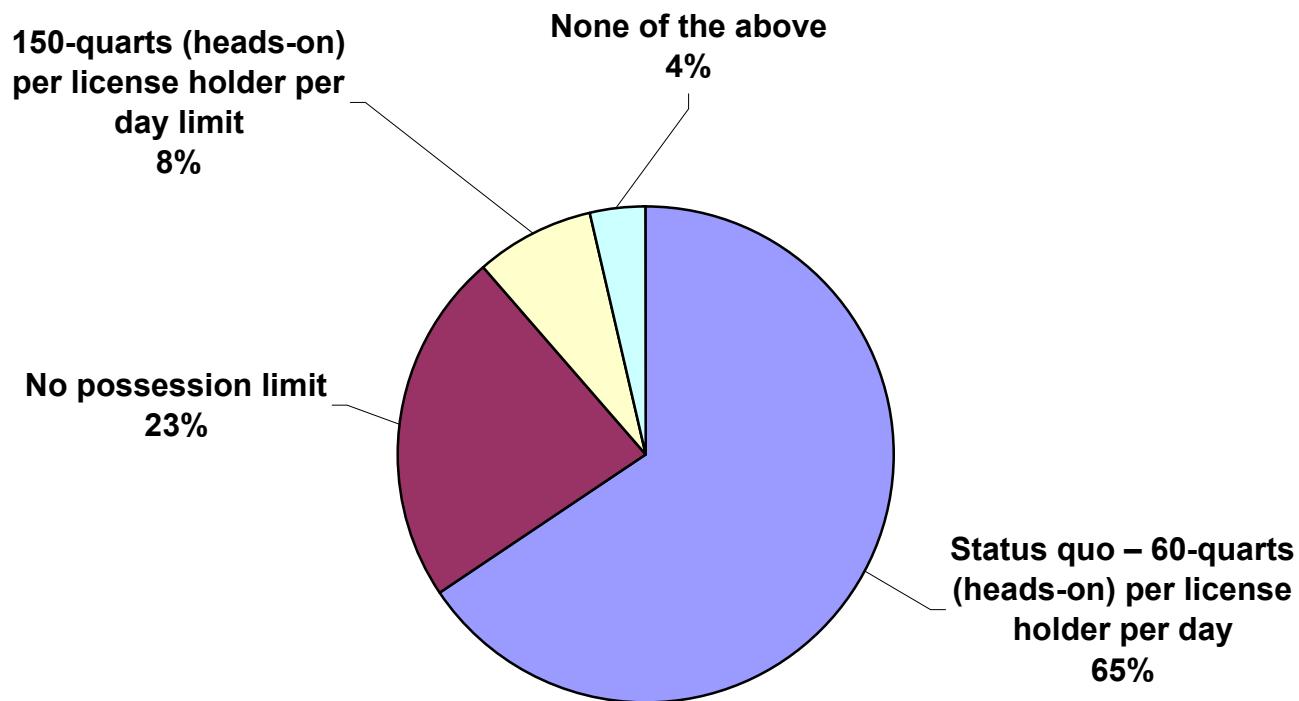
**Coastal Resources Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

For more information contact Spud Woodward at (912) 264-7218

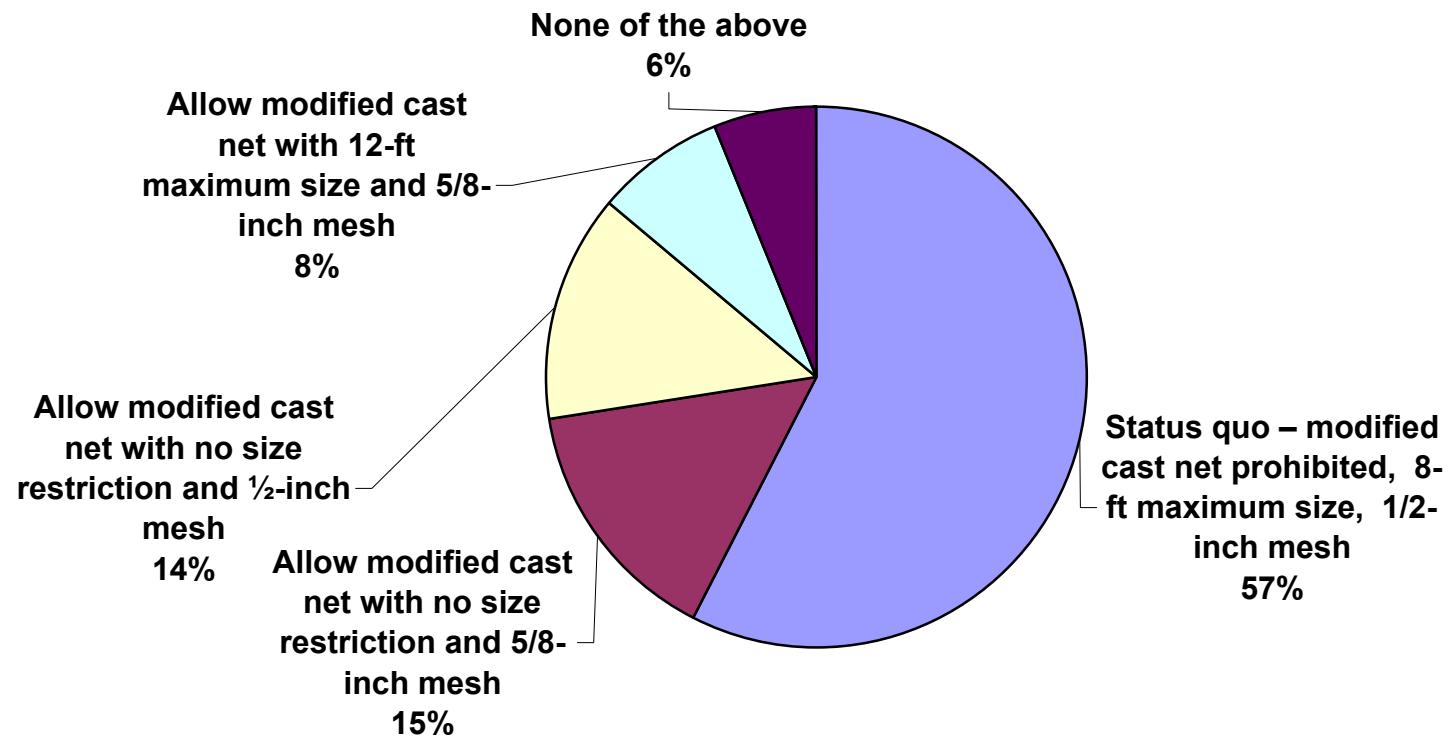
1. Choose one of the following as your preferred option for the commercial cast net food shrimp fishery. (n=168)



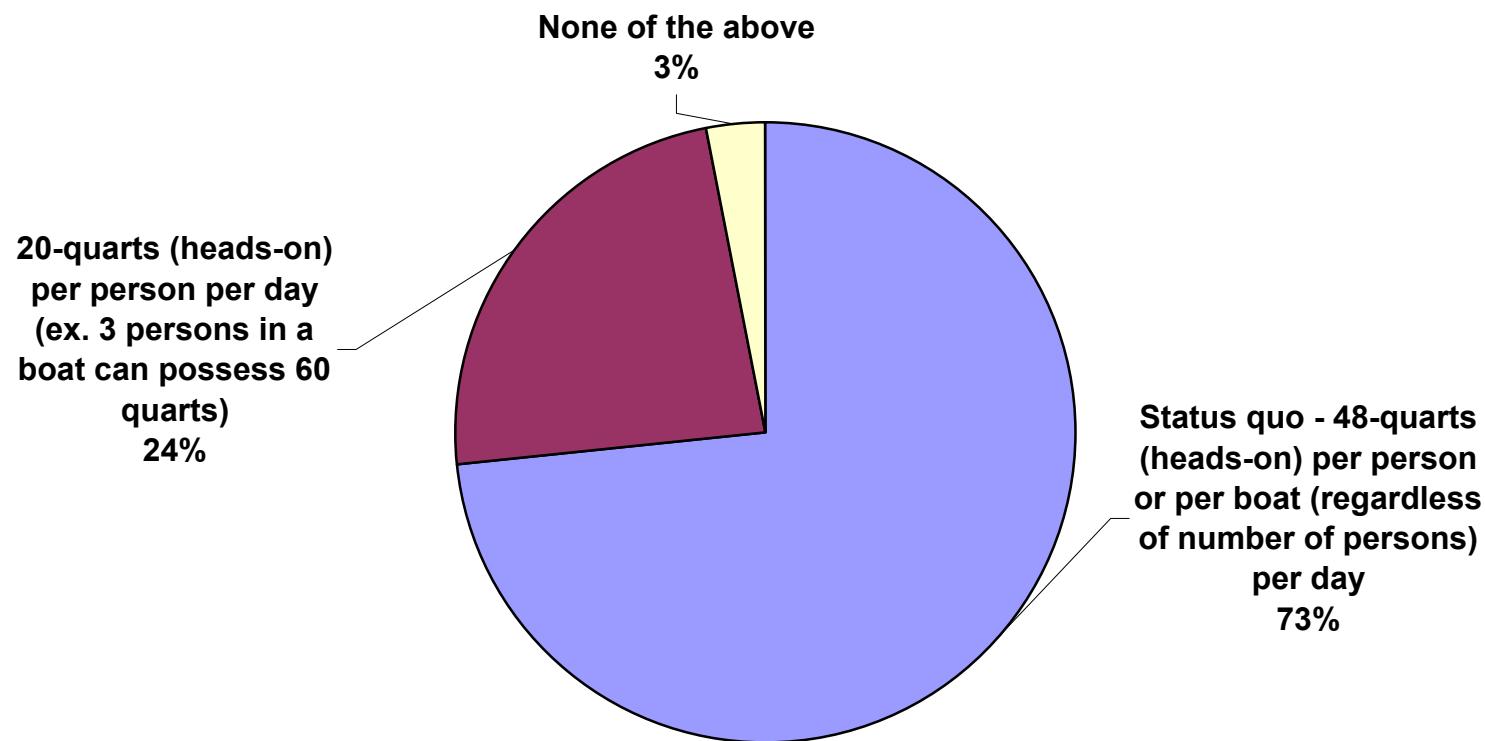
2. Choose one of the following as your preferred option for the commercial cast net food shrimp fishery. (n=168)



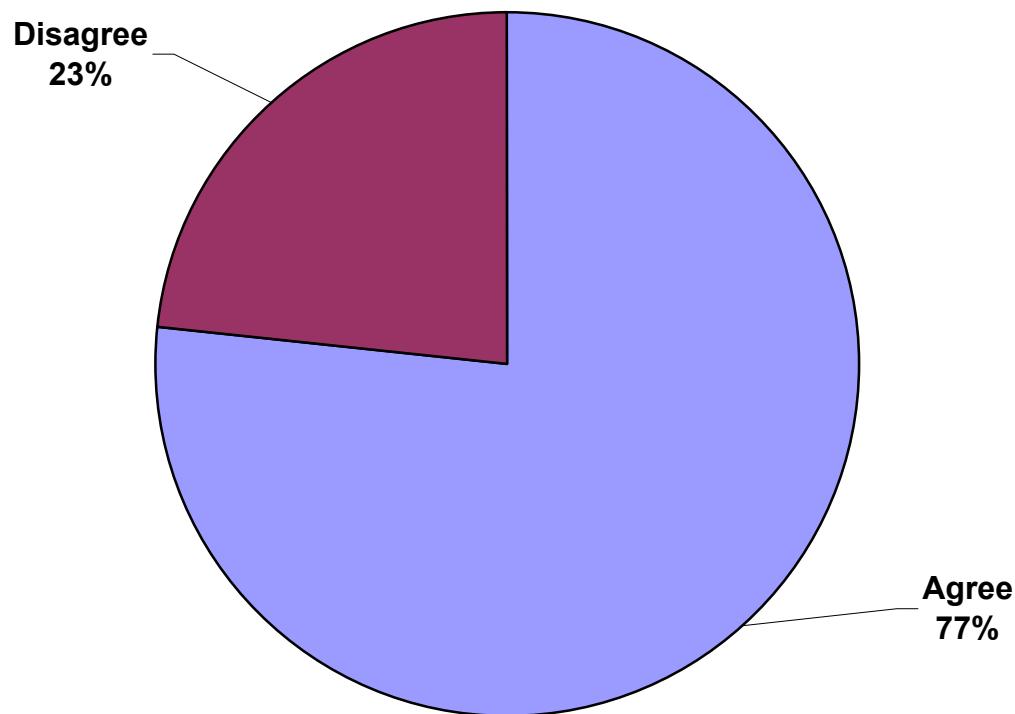
3. Choose one of the following as your preferred option for the recreational cast net food shrimp fishery. (n=167)



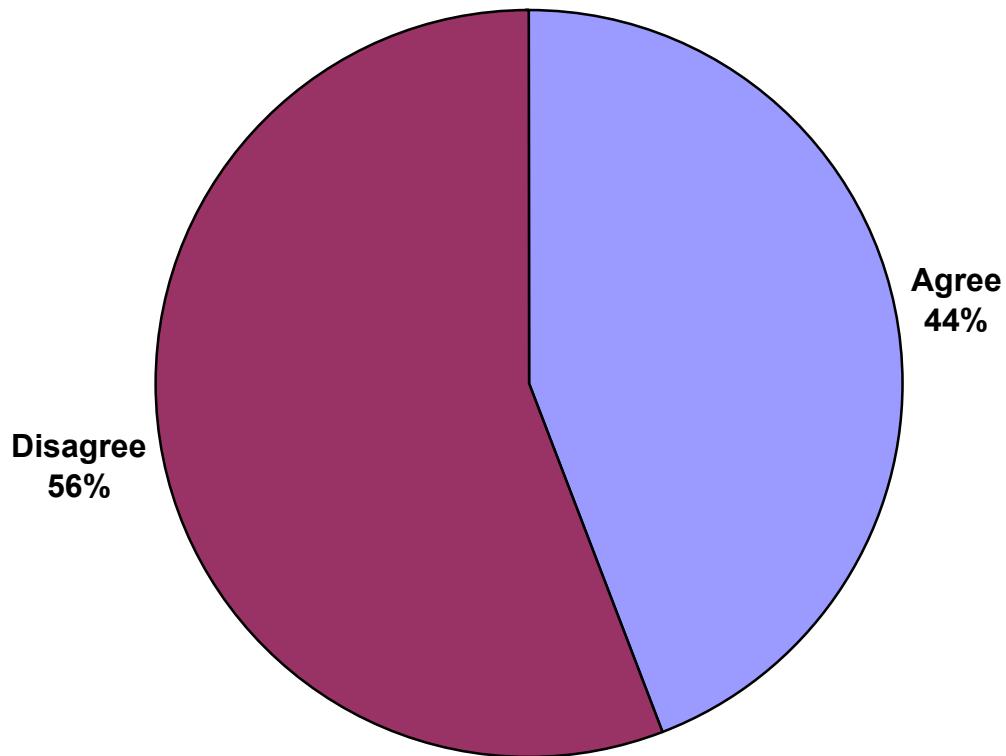
4. Choose one of the following as your preferred option for the recreational cast net food shrimp fishery. (n=165)



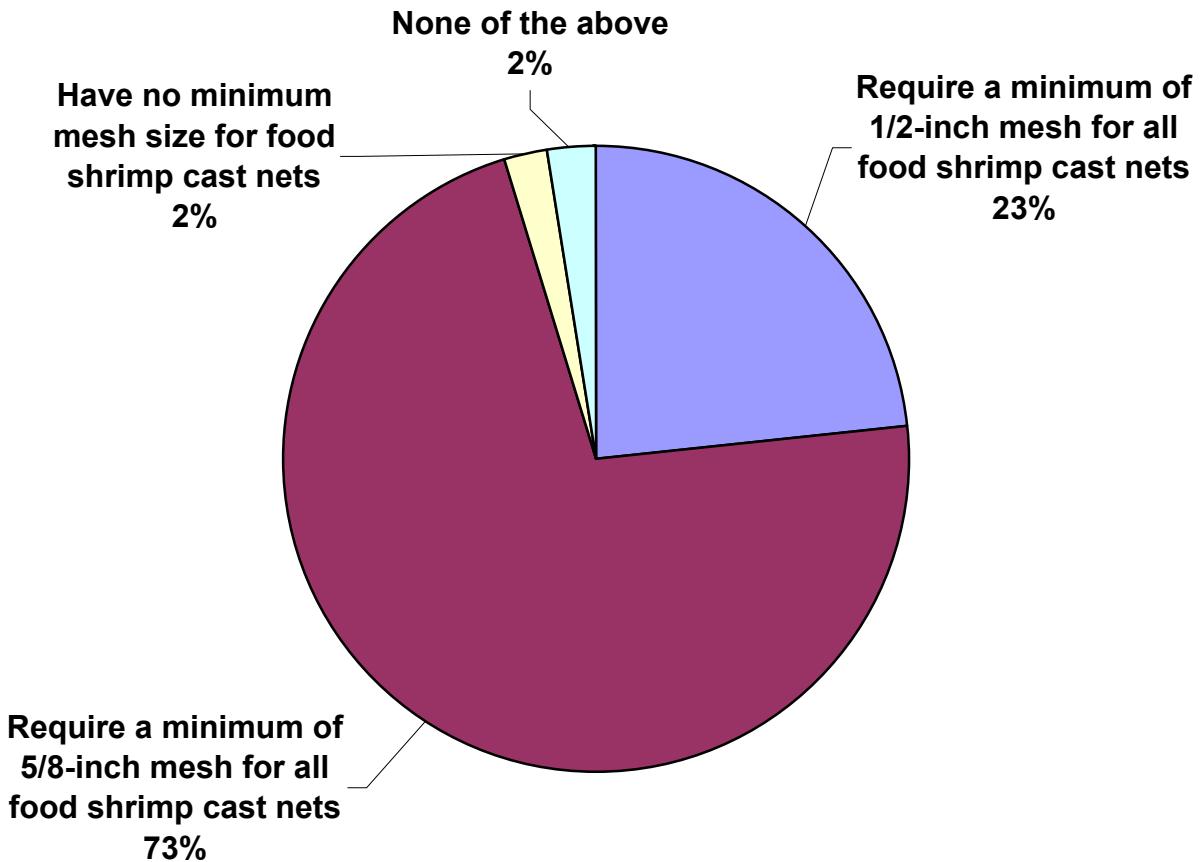
**5. Establish a stamp for the recreational cast net food shrimp fishery
(required in addition to Georgia fishing license)? (n=162)**



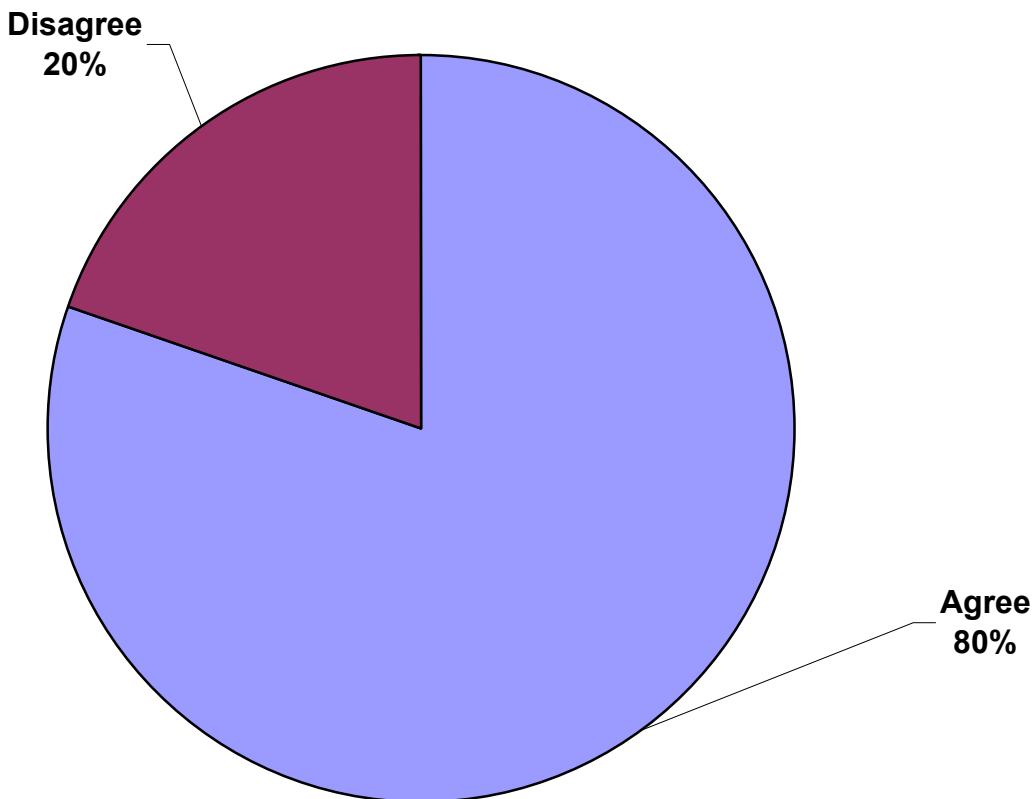
6. Allow recreational food and bait shrimp harvest 24 hours a day?
(n=168)



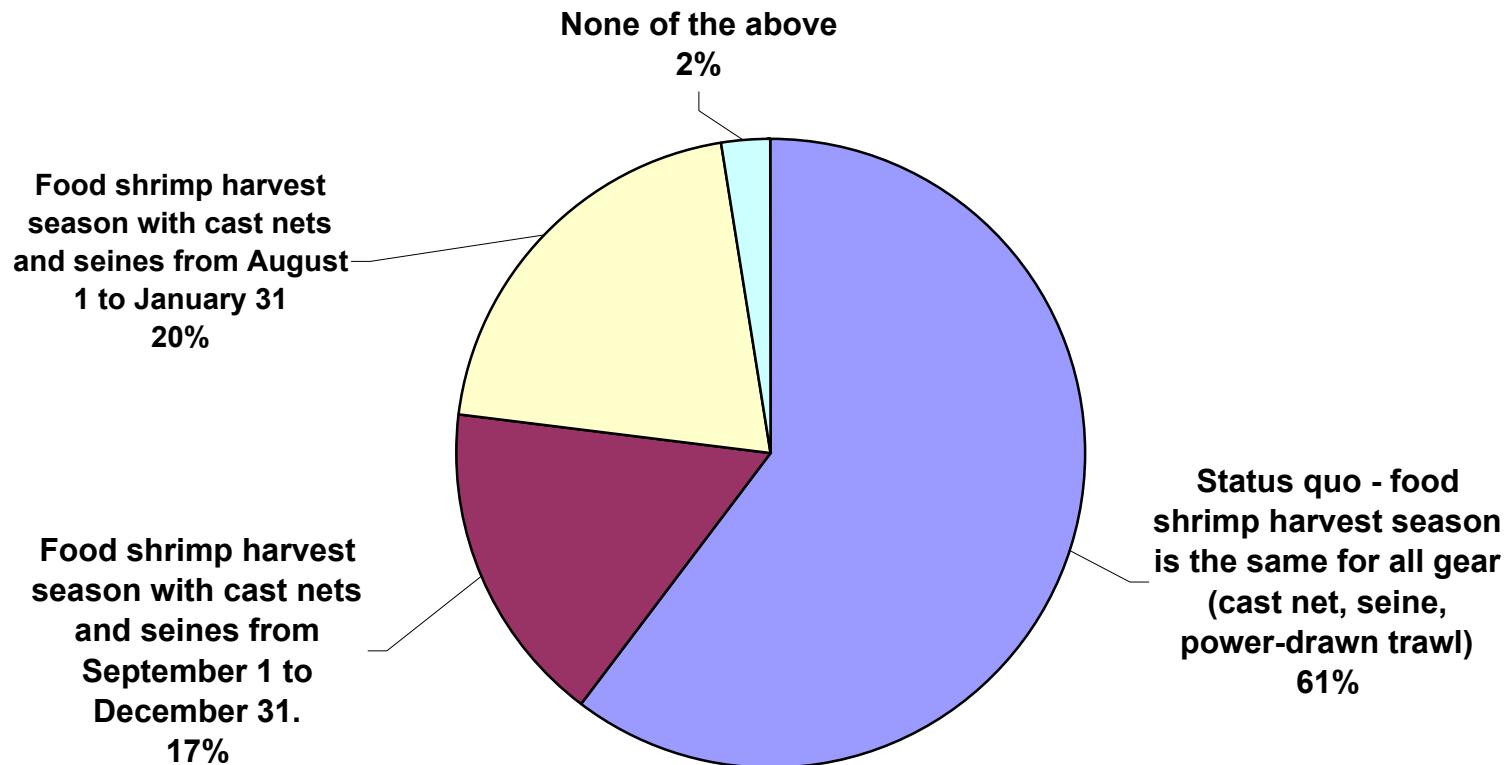
7. Choose one of the following as your preferred option. (n=168)



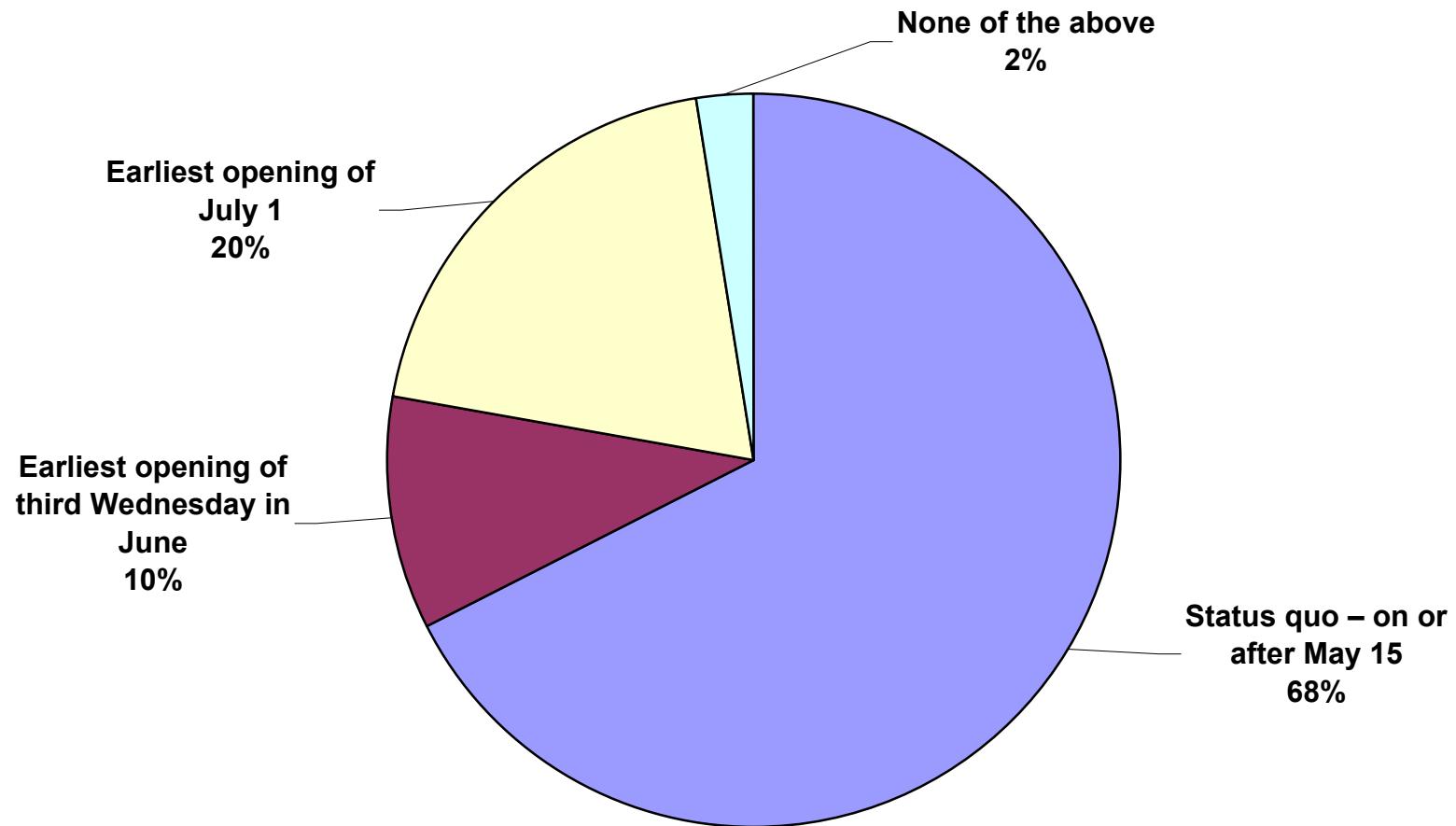
8. Continue to NOT allow the harvest of shrimp over bait in Georgia?
(n=167)



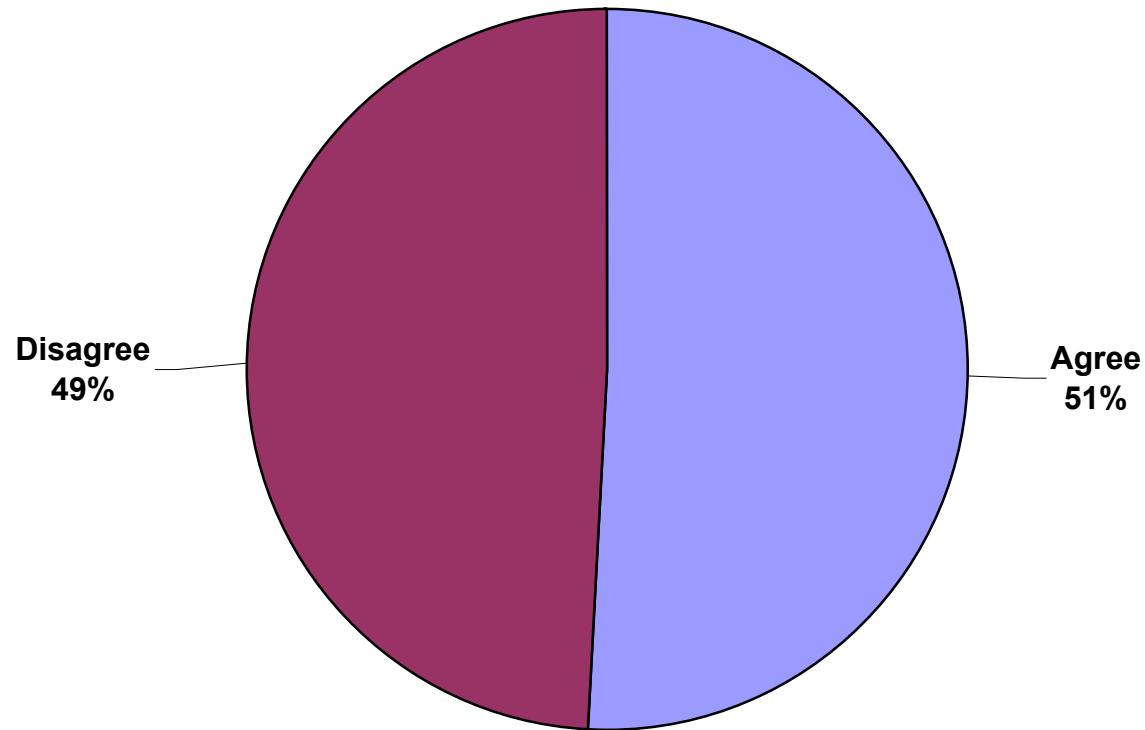
9. Choose one of the following as your preferred option. (n=161)



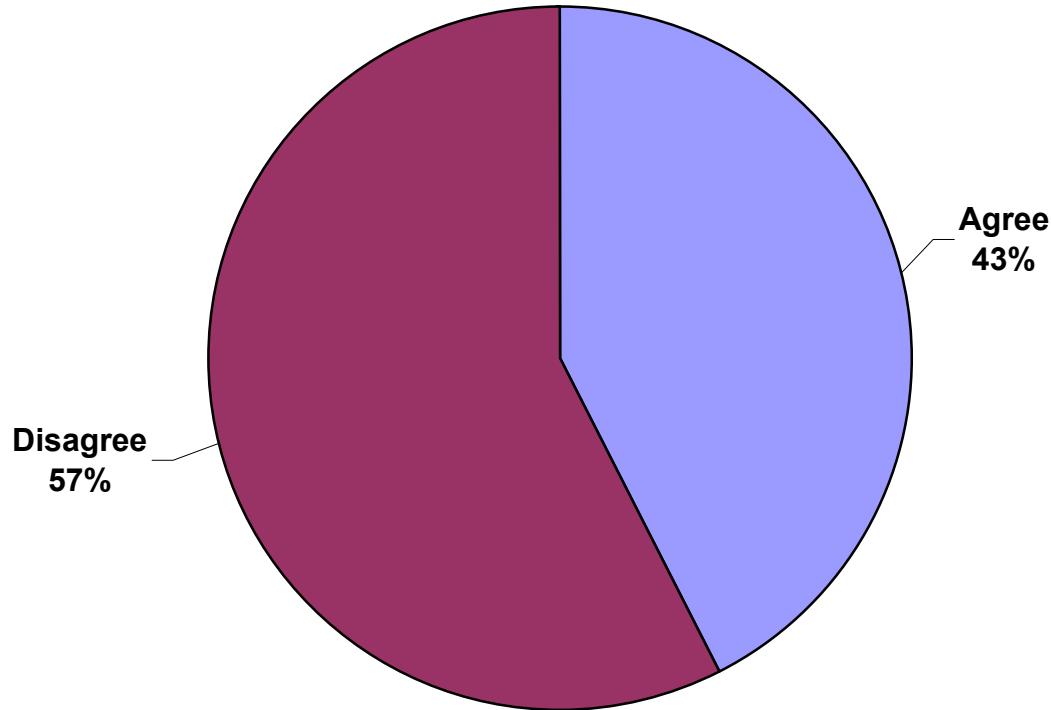
10. Choose one of the following as your preferred option for the opening of food shrimp harvest season. (n=166)



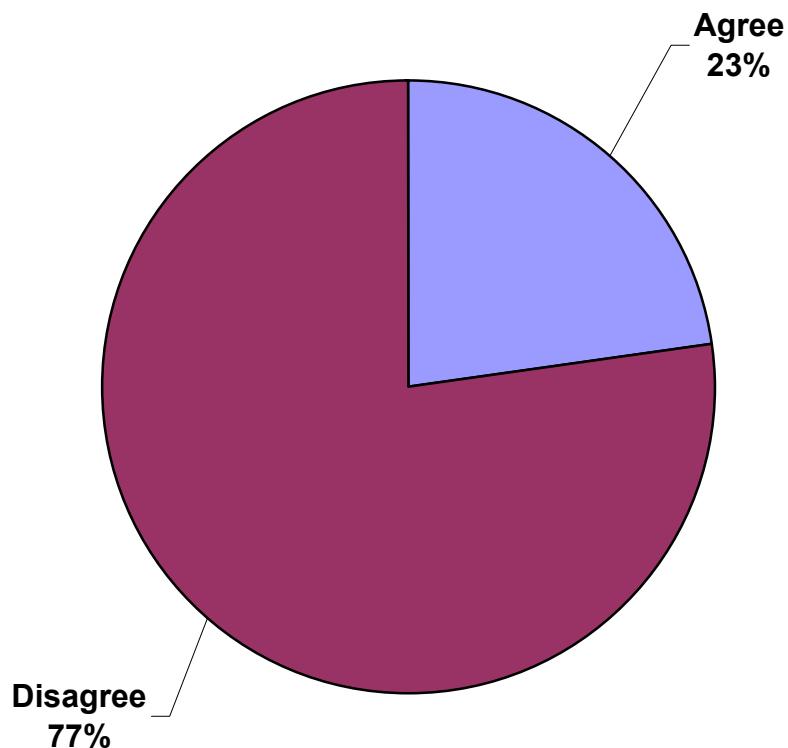
11. Allow food shrimp to be landed at facilities licensed to sell live bait shrimp? This is currently prohibited by Georgia law. (n=163)



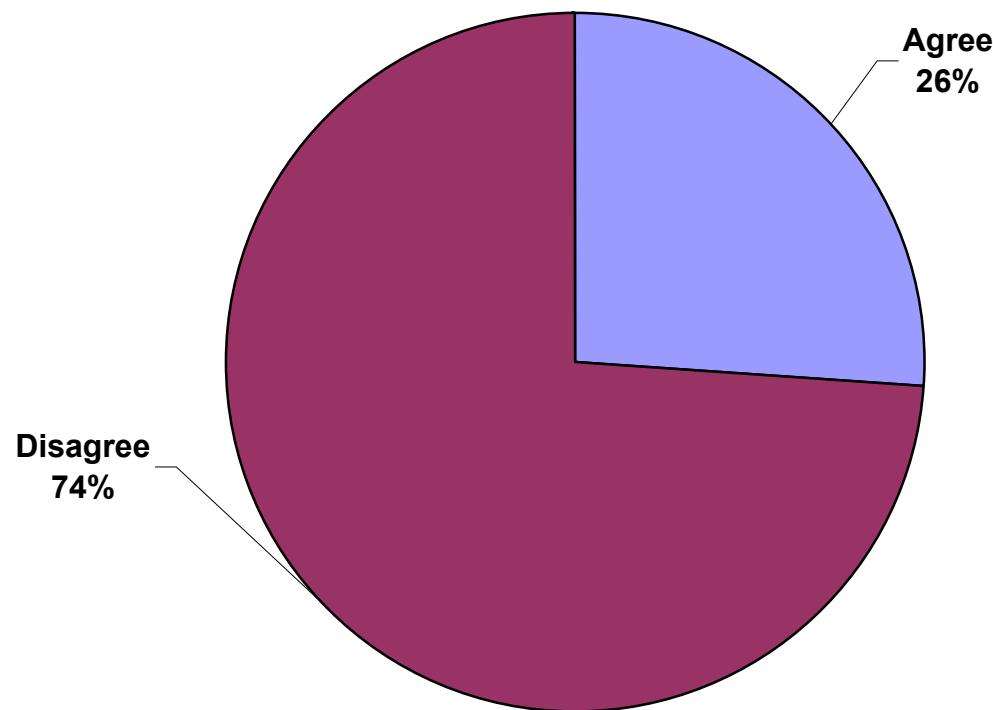
12. Permanently close Georgia's estuaries to the harvest of food shrimp with trawls. (n=162)



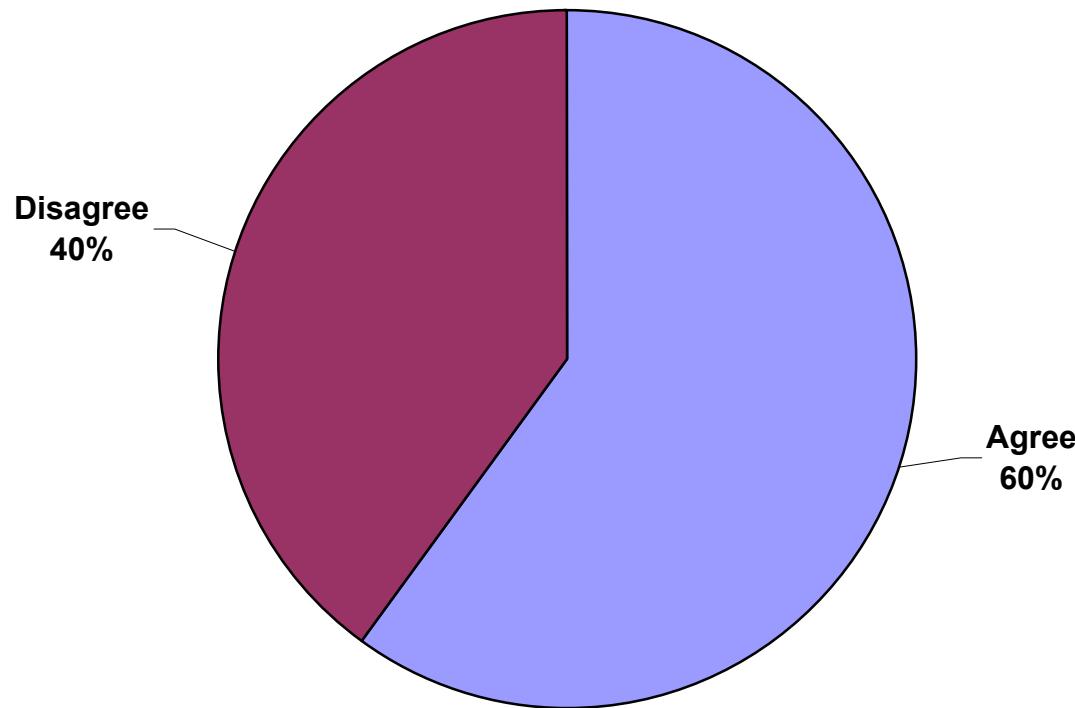
13. Move the boundary between the estuaries and waters open to food shrimp trawling from the current sound beach boundary to the COLREG line. (n=166)



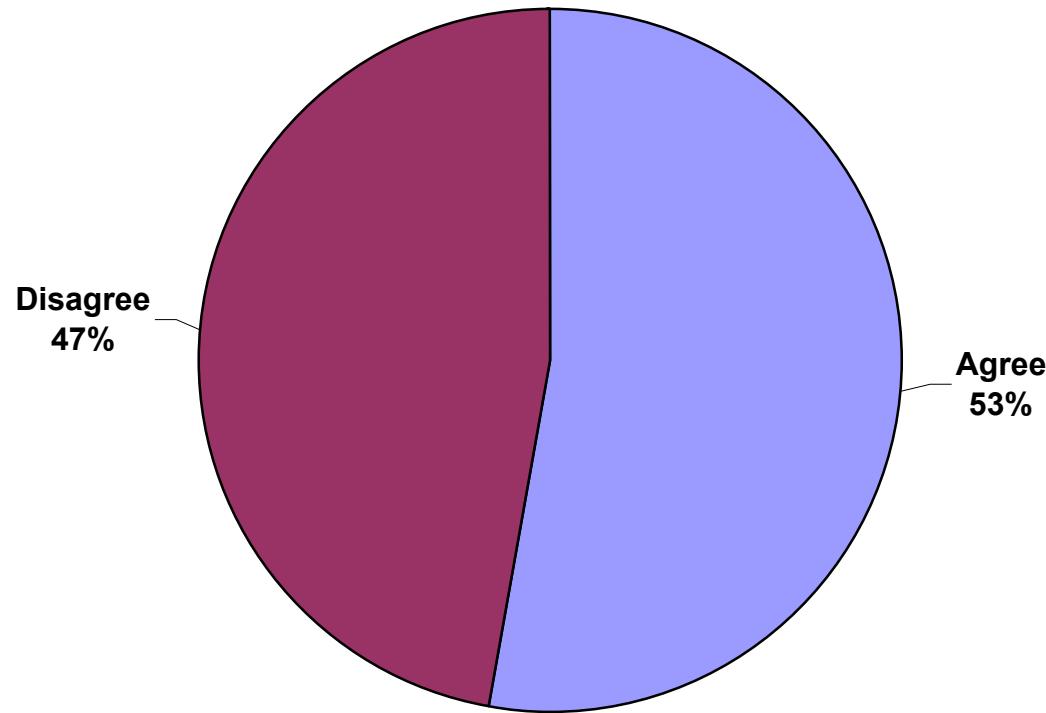
14. Prohibit the use of power-drawn trawls within one mile of the beach from May 15 to September 1? (n=165)



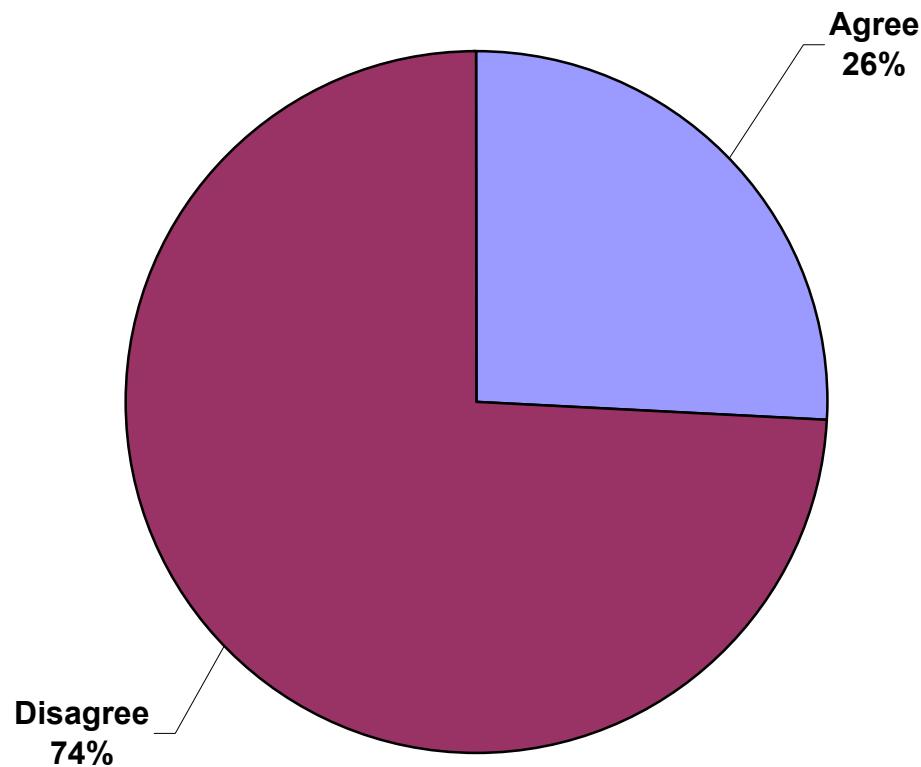
15. Allow commercial food and bait shrimp harvest ONLY during the period from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset?
(n=167)



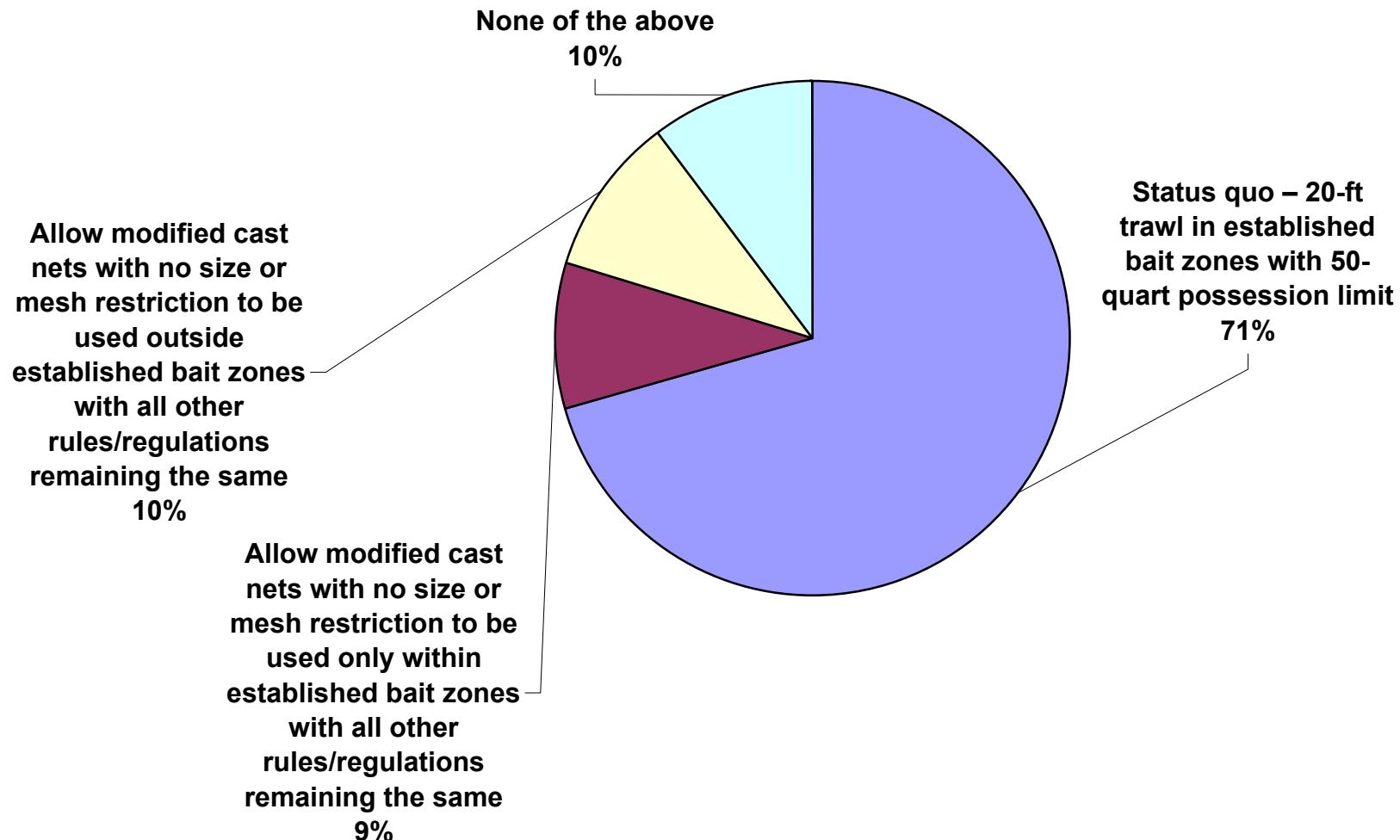
16. Cap the number of food shrimp trawler licenses at 384 (number issued in 2004-2005 license year)? (n=167)



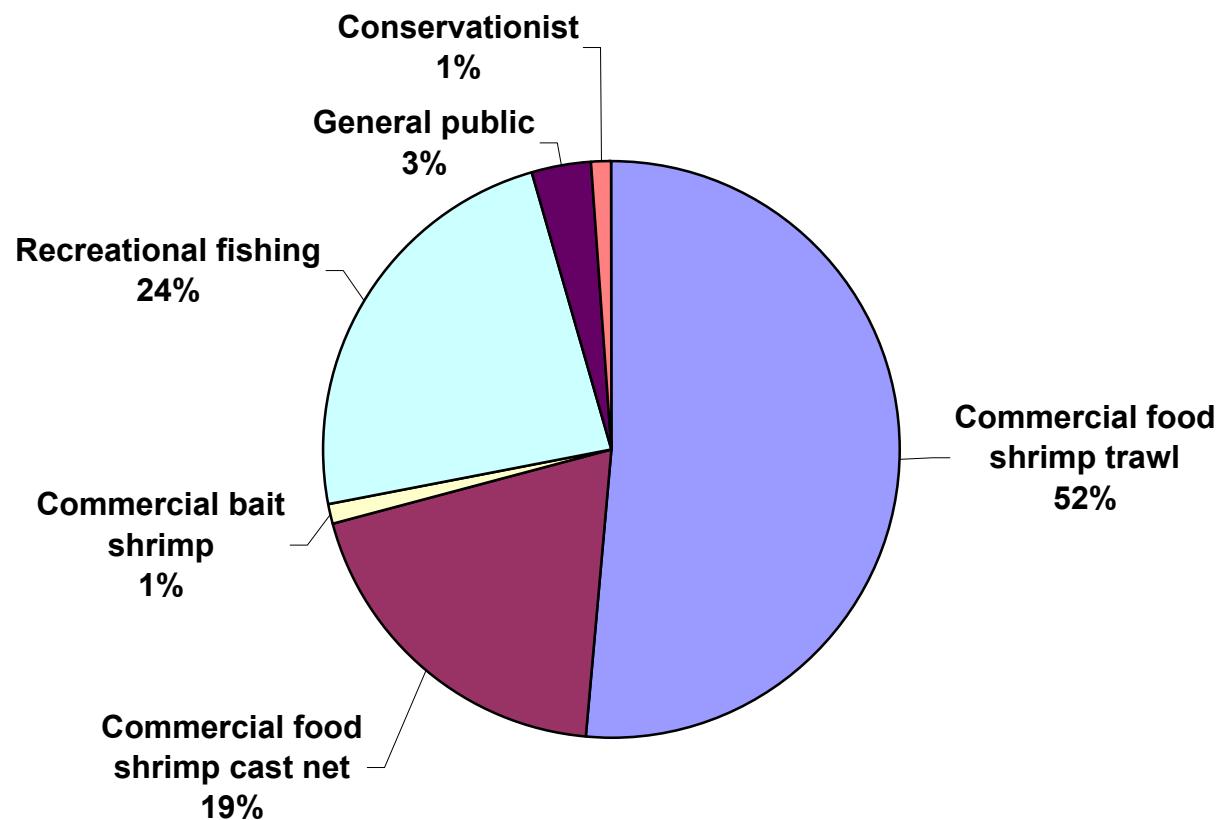
17. Repeal the 7-ft draft exclusion to the 220 ft trawl size law. (n=158)



18. Choose one of the following as your preferred option for the commercial live bait shrimp fishery. (n=167)



19. Please indicate which sector of the shrimp fishery you are most closely affiliated with: (n=185)



* Written comments submitted at the Brunswick and Pooler shrimp fishery public meetings September 2005.*

I, as a stakeholder committee member, think this entire process was bias toward allowing commercial and recreational castnetter the use of modified castnets. We were led to believe this was to be a management tool for the DNR to better manage the resource. In reality it was only a forum to allow mismanagement of the shrimp resource in our sounds and estuaries. We, as the trawler industry, realize that this resource belongs to everyone not just trawlers or castnetters, not even just Georgians. We, in the trawler industry, have demonstrated our desire for conservation over the decades by not trawling the rivers in favor of the sounds in the 30's or 40's. In the 50's we reducing the open season in the sounds to just the fall when the shrimp are larger. In the 60's we closed the Georgia waters during the spawning season to ensure a good fall crop. Then in the late 70's and early 80's, even though the biology told us there was no reason to not to shrimp in the sound, we asked for the sounds to be closed in order to catch larger more profitable shrimp offshore. Now under this so-called management plan this committee has leaned toward undermining all the conservation measures that we have implemented by allowing a commercial castnet industry and 10's of thousands of recreational castnetters possibly unlimited access in the sounds and rivers of Georgia.

We were told that we should come to the meeting to express our opinions on what we want shrimping to look like in Georgia. When the castnetters expressed their wants the DNR sat patiently only chiming in when we expressed concerns of enforceability and our concerns with overwintering shrimp. Then as we expressed these and other concerns about castnetting with modified castnets, we were called "issue pimps".

Then it was the trawlers turn to make their request. The DNR came in with a report on how to manage turtles and finfish, not shrimp. They want to reduce the shrimp fleet to some ridiculous number of less than 40. They admitted that the use of turtle excluder devices have reduced strandings from over 800 to somewhere in the 150 range. With a 10% natural mortality rate and an alarming 20% of the strandings due to boat strikes, this brings strandings to around 100. We feel the trawler industry as done it's fair share in the protection of sea turtles.

The castnetters claim that "You ought to be able to catch your limit by the most efficient means" so we gave a proposal to the committee requesting an equal chance to catch shrimp in the sounds by allowing the trawlers to drag a very small net in the sounds. We asked for the same amount of catch that was to be allocated to the commercial castnetters and a shorter more conservative season for the sounds than the castnetters proposed. Even though there was mixed feelings by the castnet industry, the DNR suddenly got very involved in the process and met us with much opposition. Even though in the past DNR biologist have said that there was no biological reason not to open the sounds to trawling, the DNR firmly hold the position that they will never allow trawlers to catch shrimp in the sound as they once did, but now will allow other stakeholders, such as castnetters, to harvest potentially unlimited amounts of shrimp in these same sounds. There is nothing equitable about what is being proposed.

Now because one committee member requested it they have put as one of the options closing the state waters from the beach line out to 1.5 miles in order to protect turtles. As

I stated earlier we feel we have done far more than anyone to reduce turtle mortality. It is time for the focus to get off the trawlers and onto other groups. Nesting habitat destruction due to development and boat strikes are the growing threat. The DNR has stated to the trawlers that the DNR has to do anything and everything to prevent turtle strandings, yet when I put an option on the table to reduce the speed limit in the EEZ they did not jump to support it. This is just another case of bias against the trawler industry and just one of the reasons you see so many bumper stickers stating Welcome to Georgia, owned and operated by the DNR

Thank you



John A. Wallace